

s.13(1)(a)

Van Helden, Karrolyn -TIF

s.15(1) - International

From: De Menezes, Josée -TIF
Sent: September 27, 2012 4:44 PM
To: Verreault, Lucie -DMT; Anand, Shalini -DMT; Teo, Owen -DMT; McDougall, Don -TFM
Cc: Harper, Susan -TID; Adams, Geoff -TIF; Bélanger, Martine -TIF; Cardinal, Laurent -TND; Shelton, John -GNB; Moen, Martin -WSHDC -TD; Patell, Jeanette -WSHDC -TD
Subject: U.S. Inspection Houses Lobbies Coalition Congress Against BTB Meat Pre-clearance
Attachments: BTBVilsackLetterwithImagesSept182012Press_copy.pdf

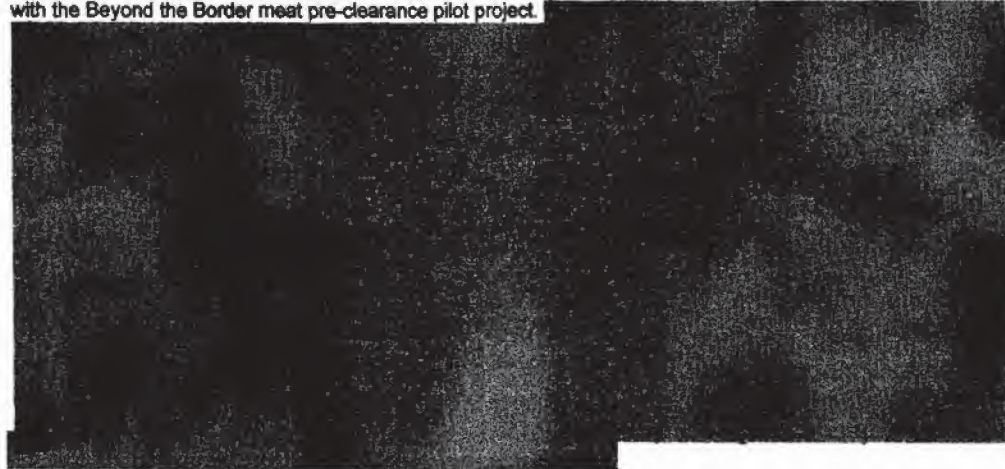
Lucie, Owen, Don, Shalini:

A. Introduction:

On September 18, the Safe Food Coalition wrote to U.S. Agriculture Secretary Vilsack requesting that he halt the BTB pilot project for meat pre-clearance (the letter is attached). Food Safety News carried the story (http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/09/consumer-groups-as-usda-to-halt-pilot-program-to-lessen-canadian-border-inspection/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=120919). Joining Food and Water Watch on this front are the influential consumers' rights organizations Consumer Federation of America and National Consumers League. To note, the group references the recent recall of beef products due to e.coli from XL Beef as corroborating evidence for their concerns about food safety of products imported from Canada. So far, there has been limited pickup by U.S. media.

B. Background:

On Tuesday, August 21 the U.S. Canadian Border Inspection Association, a newly formed group of 10 U.S. meat import inspection houses, met with U.S. House and Senate Agriculture Committee Staffers to raise their concerns with the Beyond the Border meat pre-clearance pilot project.



The coordination between USCIBIA and the well-funded, well organized, consumer rights organization Food and Water Watch may also increase the reach of this campaign. Ultimately, USCIBIA's messaging challenges much more than the success of this meat pre-clearance pilot project. Their charges could undermine confidence in the Canadian food safety system writ large, potentially among some actors directly responsible for a range of policies with significant economic impact on the Canadian agriculture sector.

C. Next Steps and Considerations:

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As CFIA has been busy dealing with the recent recall of beef products due to e.coli, no media lines are yet available on this issue.

We will keep you informed of developments.

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